



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
PAY-AS-YOU-GO ESTIMATE**

October 30, 2000

**S. 2547  
Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve Act of 2000**

*As cleared by the Congress on October 25, 2000*

S. 2547 would direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish the Great Sand Dunes National Park and the Baca National Wildlife Refuge in Colorado when sufficient lands have been acquired to warrant the designations. At that time, the Great Sand Dunes National Monument would be abolished. The act also would establish the Great Sand Dunes National Preserve on land that is currently administered by the Forest Service as part of the Rio Grande National Forest.

S. 2547 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to sell water rights purchased with the Baca Ranch to a local water district that currently leases water rights from the ranch owners. Based on information provided by the National Park Service, we estimate that selling the water resources would increase federal offsetting receipts by less than \$500,000 within the next four years.

The act also would allow grazing to continue on former state or private lands that are acquired for the national park, preserve, or wildlife refuge. The Secretary of the Interior also could continue to allow grazing on land that is currently federal unless such activity would harm federal resources. The legislation would provide that land that is within the boundaries of the national monument, park, refuge, or preserve be withdrawn from use under federal mining and leasing laws, subject to valid existing rights. CBO estimates that the bill's provisions regarding grazing on federal lands and withdrawal of lands under federal mining and other laws would have no significant effect on offsetting receipts.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Deborah Reis. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.